



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**November 22, 2006
For immediate release**

- 1. EPC approves 13 contracts to help improve Iowa's water quality**
- 2. Red color in Coldwater Creek appears to have come from manure application**
- 3. Public's help needed to improve Raccoon and Des Moines rivers; public meetings announced**
- 4. P Index results vital for livestock producers who have submitted original MMPs**
- 5. Hearings set on proposed dock rules**
- 6. Watershed Quality Planning Task Force to meet Dec. 6; meeting open to public**
- 7. DNR enforcement actions**

EPC APPROVES 13 CONTRACTS TO HELP IMPROVE IOWA'S WATER QUALITY

Projects will help reduce pollution from nonpoint sources

MEDIA CONTACT: Ubbo Agena at (515) 281-6402 or Ubbo.Agena@dnr.state.ia.us

DES MOINES — At its November meeting, the Environmental Protection Commission approved 13 contracts totaling almost \$2.6 million for projects to address water quality problems across the state.

The projects, like many others already underway statewide, will help reduce the effects of nonpoint source pollution in Iowa's water. Nonpoint source pollution occurs when rainfall or snowmelt washes pollutants from agricultural or urban areas into lakes, rivers and groundwater. Those pollutants include sediment, nutrients and bacteria, and they enter our water from watersheds, or areas of land that drain to a specific stream or lake.

"Local projects like these are so important in improving Iowa's water quality," said Allen Bonini, head of the DNR's watershed improvement program. "We hope that these

projects will lead to improvements that will help us remove some streams and lakes from Iowa's impaired waters list in the future."

The total amount of the contracts is \$2,592,420. The DNR will fund projects with grant funding made available through the Section 319 program of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Many of the projects will also use funding from other state and federal programs.

Projects are listed below by region. A full listing of the approved projects, including short descriptions of the projects' goals, is available on the DNR Web site at www.iowadnr.gov/epc/06nov/4.pdf.

Northern Iowa

- Dry Run Creek Water Quality Project, Black Hawk County, \$216,376
- Hannen Lake Watershed Project, Benton County, \$135,710
- Price Creek Water Quality Project, Benton County, \$138,200
- Reducing Bacteria in the Upper Iowa River, Winneshiek County, \$306,940
- Silver Creek Water Quality Project, Clayton County, \$263,265
- Silver Lake Water Quality Project, Palo Alto County, \$131,500
- Upper Catfish Creek Watershed Protection Project, Dubuque County, \$211,600

Southern Iowa

- Fox River Impaired Waters Treatment, Appanoose and Davis counties, \$258,939
- Lake Wapello Nonpoint Source Watershed Project, Davis County, \$274,510
- Mariposa Watershed Project, Jasper County, \$135,215
- Water Quality in Rathbun Lake: Targeted Sub-watersheds, Wayne County, \$300,000
- Whitebreast Creek Watershed Project, Warren, Clarke, Lucas and Marion counties, \$111,355
- White Oak Conservation Area Nonpoint Source Watershed Project, Mahaska County, \$108,900

###

RED COLOR IN COLDWATER CREEK APPEARS TO HAVE COME FROM MANURE APPLICATION

MEDIA CONTACT: Jeff Vansteenburgh or Jeremy Klatt at (641) 424-4073.

GREENE — The DNR is investigating a purple-reddish color in Coldwater Creek in northern Butler County.

A concerned citizen reported the discoloration, located about five miles west of Greene, to the DNR Tuesday afternoon. The red tint is characteristic of earthen manure storage basins and comes from bacteria that help break down nutrients in liquid manure.

Upon investigation Tuesday, the DNR located two basins upstream with the same red color. Liquid manure from those basins was being applied to a nearby field. On Wednesday, the DNR located a tile line discharging the red color to the creek. The DNR has taken samples and is working with local producers to determine how the liquid manure entered the tile line and eventually Coldwater Creek.

“We want to urge producers and applicators to use caution when land-applying manure, especially when irrigating liquid manure,” said Jeff Vansteenburgh, supervisor of the DNR’s Mason City field office. “It’s easy to overload the soil. When that happens, the liquid manure soaks in and seeps into underground tile lines, which can send the manure right into a stream.”

Vansteenburgh advised all applicators to avoid applying all manure at one time, application in wet conditions and when rainfall is expected. He also advised applicators to watch soil conditions so soils don’t become saturated.

No fish kill has been observed. The DNR will continue to investigate.

#

PUBLIC’S HELP NEEDED TO IMPROVE RACCOON AND DES MOINES RIVERS; PUBLIC MEETINGS ANNOUNCED

MEDIA CONTACT: Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791 or Chris.VanGorp@dnr.state.ia.us

DES MOINES — From Algona to Guthrie Center, from Sac City to Des Moines – the DNR is seeking your suggestions, comments and questions on improving water quality in the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers.

While these rivers may not run directly through your town or farm, you may still live in the rivers’ watersheds. A watershed, also called a river basin, is an area of land that drains into a river or stream. Making improvements in smaller streams and changing land management in the watersheds can make a difference in the river.

The DNR is developing water quality improvement plans for the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers. The DNR will hold five public meetings in the watersheds to explain the process of developing the plans and to answer questions. In addition, the DNR seeks your comments and assistance in identifying causes and solutions to the problems in the watersheds. The meetings will be held:

East Fork Des Moines River

- Algona: Dec. 5, 6 p.m., Algona Public Library, 210 N. Phillips

Raccoon River

- Jefferson: Dec. 7, 3 p.m., Jefferson Community Center, 204 W. Harrison

- Sac City: Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m., Sac City Community Building, 1015 W. Main St.
- Guthrie Center: Dec. 11, 6 p.m., Springbrook Education Center (north of Guthrie Center on F-25)

Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers

- Des Moines: Dec. 13, 6 p.m., Des Moines Botanical Center, 909 Robert D. Ray Dr.

Portions of the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers are impaired by high levels of bacteria and nitrates. High levels of bacteria can cause people recreating in the rivers to become sick. Elevated nitrate levels cause problems with using the rivers as a drinking water source, including thousands of people in the Des Moines metro area. However, the situation cannot be fixed without the help of people upstream who can address the water quality in their local streams. Citizen involvement is critical to achieve water quality goals in these watersheds and across the state.

With public help, water quality improvement plans, also known as a Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), are being developed to address waters across the state considered as “impaired.” The DNR calculates how much of a pollutant a water body can receive and still maintain its designated use such as maintaining aquatic life, allowing body contact such as swimming or being used as a drinking water supply. Then it is up to people living in the river basins to develop and implement the plans.

###

P INDEX RESULTS VITAL FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED ORIGINAL MMPs

MEDIA CONTACT: Ken Hessenius at (712) 262-4177

DES MOINES – It doesn’t matter when an animal confinement was built -- when it comes to submitting manure management plans (MMPs), it’s the date that the first plan was sent to the DNR that counts.

“We’re working with animal producers to remind them that they need to submit a P index based on when they submitted their original or first-time MMP,” said Ken Hessenius, DNR field office supervisor in Spencer.

A lot of producers think the first P index is due based on when they built, he added. “But if they submitted an original or first-time MMP between April 1, 2002, and Oct. 24, 2004, their P index, including soil test results and the soil loss calculations, are due with their first updated MMP submitted after Aug. 25 of this year,” Hessenius said.

Soil loss calculations from the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation 2 (RUSLE2) can be found on the USDA Natural Resources Conservation (NRCS) Web site. The P index is also available on the NRCS Web site at <http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/>. Producers must submit the RUSLE2 profile erosion calculation record to the DNR.

Producers must also use proper soil testing techniques, including taking one soil sample for every 10 acres. For example, if a producer has 72 acres, eight soil samples will need to be taken, Hessenius said.

While producers can submit existing soil tests that don't meet the new requirements with their original MMP, the updated tests must be submitted to the DNR within one year of the original MMP submittal and must meet the minimum requirements, he said.

The DNR will not be granting exemptions or extensions of the deadlines for the P index-based plans. See the DNR Web site for a timeline or more information about the P index: www.iowadnr.com/afo/mmp.html#phosphorus or www.iowadnr.com/afo/files/pindex_fs.pdf.

Check the Iowa State University soil fertility Web site for information about soil sampling at extension.agron.iastate.edu/soilfertility/. Finally, more information about the P index can be found in current and back issues of Odor and Nutrient Management at the Iowa Manure Management Action Group's Web site at <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/immag/pubsnl.html>.

When the MMP annual plan update is due, producers should send the soil sample results, the new soil loss calculations (RUSLE2 detailed report) and the new P index calculations to the local DNR field office.

###

HEARINGS SET ON PROPOSED DOCK RULES

MEDIA CONTACT: Lowell Joslin at (515) 281-5919.

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is hosting three public meetings to discuss the proposed changes to dock rules on public waters. Meetings are scheduled for Nov. 28 in Clear Lake, Nov. 29, in Spirit Lake, and Nov. 30 in Des Moines. All meetings officially begin at 7 p.m.

The DNR will be available at each location from 3 to 6 p.m. to answer questions in an informal open house setting. “We are hopeful that we can answer a lot of individual dock specific questions during the open house period, then focus on presenting the proposal and accepting formal comments during the official public meeting in the evening,” said Lowell Joslin, chief of the DNR's law enforcement bureau.

Copies of the current and proposed rules are on the Iowa DNR website www.iowadnr.com, then click on law enforcement. Comments may be submitted through the webpage as well. Click on Submit Your Comments Here, enter your name and address, then add the comments and submit. All comments must be received by Nov. 30.

The meeting locations are Nov. 28, Clear Lake Community Room, 15 N. 6th Street, in Clear Lake, Nov. 29, Spirit Lake Community Center, 1602 15th Street, in Spirit Lake, and Nov. 30 in the Wallace State Office Bldg., Auditorium, 502 E. 9th St., in Des Moines.

Written comments may be mailed to Law Enforcement Bureau, Attn: Lowell Joslin, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0034 or faxed to 515-281-6794. People who wish to convey their views orally should call 515-281-4515 or go to the law enforcement offices on the fourth floor of the Wallace Building.

#

WATERSHED QUALITY PLANNING TASK FORCE TO MEET DEC. 6; MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

MEDIA CONTACT: Sharon Tahtinen at (515) 281-7066 or Jessie Brown at (515) 281-5131.

DES MOINES — A committee appointed by the Iowa Legislature to discuss a voluntary statewide water quality program has set its third meeting for Wednesday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Watershed Quality Planning Task Force will meet at the Metro Waste Authority, 300 E. Locust St., #100, in Des Moines.

Gary Stuhlfauth with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will present an overview of watershed credit trading. Trading programs help achieve water quality improvement at a lower cost. With watershed credit trading, facilities that face high costs to meet pollution regulations can purchase environmentally equivalent (or superior) pollution reductions from another source, such as paying for conservation practices on agricultural land.

In addition, the meeting agenda includes presentations on tax policy by Iowa State University, the legislative appropriations budget by the Legislative Services Agency, and an update on the Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Advisory Committee. The task force will also review its legislative charges and will establish the committee's next steps.

An agenda and other information are available on the DNR Web site at www.iowadnr.gov/water/taskforce/.

The Iowa Legislature called for creation of the committee during the last session. Specifically, the legislature is asking the committee to develop a report containing recommendations on the following issues:

- Improving water quality
- Creating economic incentives for environmental compliance
- Facilitating implementation efforts
- Developing quantifiable protocols and procedures
- Providing greater flexibility through community-based, non-regulatory,

performance-driven watershed management planning.

The committee is comprised of representatives from both houses and both parties of the Legislature, Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Iowa League of Cities, Iowa Association of Business and Industry, Iowa Water Pollution Control Association, Iowa Rural Water Association, Growing Green Communities, Iowa Environmental Council, Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa Corn Growers Association, Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Iowa, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Iowa Conservation Alliance.

The committee meeting is open to the public.

#

DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

MEDIA CONTACT: Jessie Brown at (515) 281-5131.

DES MOINES — The DNR took the following enforcement actions in October and November 2006. The following are only briefs; please contact Jessie Brown of the DNR for more information at (515) 281-5131.

Consent Orders

A consent order is issued in settlement of an administrative order or as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

- Equipment Brokers, Inc. d/b/a R.J. Trausch Industries, Inc., of Alpharetta, Ga., agreed in a consent order to cease the open burning of all trade wastes and other solid wastes, and to pay a \$1,500 penalty. The consent order is in regard to open burning of trade waste, including lumber and plastic, at a site in Audubon County.
- David Carlisle, of Shannon City, agreed in a consent order to remove all solid waste (excluding vehicles) from a site in Ringgold County, submit documentation of proper disposal to the DNR and prepare a Pollution Prevention Plan with the assistance of the Iowa Waste Reduction Center at the University of Northern Iowa. The plan should be designed to ensure proper management of waste fluids, batteries and other wastes related to the storage, maintenance and repair of automobiles on the subject property.
- Dennis Steib, of Fort Dodge, agreed in a consent order to submit a written plan to the DNR outlining proper future disposal of solid waste, remove remaining solid waste at the burn site, document proper disposal of the waste to the DNR and to pay a \$2,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to open burning and trade waste disposal violations at a site in Webster County.

- Charles Wauters, of Keystone, agreed in a consent order to make changes to his open cattle feedlot, including closing two pens, submitting a manure handling plan to the DNR, and maintaining the feedlot with less than 300 cattle or to apply to the DNR for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit if the number of cattle rises above 300. Wauters also agreed to pay a \$3,500 penalty and \$19,124.06 in restitution for a fish kill. The consent order is in regard to a manure discharge and resulting fish kill in Prairie Creek in Benton County.
- Cody Farms, Inc., of Griswold, agreed in a consent order to pay a \$4,500 penalty. The consent order is in regard to releasing manure from the Mill Park Feedlot in Pottawattamie County to Farm Creek via a tile line. Cody Farms leases the feedlot from Mill Park Feedlot, Inc.
- Mill Park Feedlot, Inc., of Alpharetta, Ga., agreed in a consent amendment to a July 2006 administrative order to pay a \$4,000 penalty. In other respects, the original order remains in full force and effect. The original order was in regard to releasing manure from the Mill Park Feedlot in Pottawattamie County to Farm Creek via a tile line.
- Larry Krogman, of Ashton, agreed in a consent amendment to a January 2006 administrative order to pay a \$2,000 penalty. In all other respects, the original order remains in full force and effect. The original order was in regard to manure management plan violations.
- S.K. Food and Gas, Inc.; 4M, LLC; Brady Oil, LLC; and Diwan, LLC, all of Davenport, agreed in a consent amendment to a 2005 administrative order to retain a certified underground storage tank (UST) compliance inspector, develop a written UST operation and compliance manual, have the UST system inspected every six months and give the DNR notice within 10 days of any change in property interests at this site. S.K. Food and Gas and Diwan will jointly pay a \$3,000 penalty. The balance of \$4,300 shall be included in a consensual lien against the property. The original order is in regard to UST violations at a site in Davenport.

In a separate consent amendment to another 2005 administrative order, S.K. Food and Gas, Inc.; 4M, LLC; and Diwan, LLC, all of Davenport, agreed to pay a \$6,000 penalty. The original order is in regard to UST violations at a site in Davenport.